SUPPLEMENT TO

COMMERCE REPORTS

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Annual Series | No. 55a | August 28, 1917

JAPAN.

Consul General Geo. H. Scidmore, Yokohama, March 22.

The foreign trade of Japan has largely increased, new markets abroad have been entered, new lines of industry have been exploited, work has been plentiful for its people, wages have advanced, the cost of living, owing to successive good harvests, has not risen in proportion general in other countries, and its growing reserve of specie has enabled the country to become a creditor with a large surplus seeking further investments.

According to preliminary statistics, the exports of merchandise from Japan during 1916 were valued at $562,042,857, showing an increase over the preceding year of $209,305,973. Imports were valued at $377,079,313, showing an increase over 1915 of $111,919,244.

These increases in values are estimated to exceed proportionately by from 20 to 25 per cent the increases in quantities, due to enhanced prices.

The president of the Yokohama Specie Bank in a recent address said:

> Some of the main causes for this turn in foreign trade are: First, the export of munitions and other classes of cargo. Second, the increase in exports to America. Third, increased trade with China owing to the restoration of peace in that country and the boom in bar silver. Fourth, the greater demand for Japanese goods in Australia, British India, the South Seas, South Africa, and South America as substitutes for European goods which have ceased to arrive. Fifth, increased import of raw materials as the result of the increase in exports, while the import of iron materials, machinery, and other factory requirements increased enormously in consequence of a great uplift in industrial promotion in this country. Sixth, the extraordinary rise in the prices of general commodities.

Trade by Countries.

The following table gives the value of the exports from and imports into Japan, by countries during the past two years:

Countries.	Exports to.		Imports from.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
North America:				
United States	$101,662,638	$169,604,040	$51,062,071	$101,733,357
British America	3,497,986	5,642,043	529,378	830,616
Mexico	6,702	289,072	3,418	3,578
Asia:				
China	70,279,048	96,067,239	42,752,172	54,156,360
Kwangtung Province	11,055,999	18,474,365	13,853,908	16,926,018
Hongkong	13,645,870	17,437,511	793,868	506,124
British India	21,016,825	35,701,301	73,497,484	89,463,100
Straits Settlements	6,294,532	9,201,749	2,667,174	5,352,485
Dutch India	4,202,117	8,683,146	8,123,505	7,092,672
French Indo-China	317,398	932,107	1,836,295	3,009,266

Countries.	Exports to.		Imports from.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
Asia—Continued.				
Asiatic Russia	$38,992,991	$58,670,199	$1,775,117	$884,147
Philippines	3,870,193	5,728,051	3,639,657	1,718,975
Siam	387,314	1,052,367	1,398,272	1,470,080
Europe:				
Great Britain	34,110,017	51,171,796	28,926,015	40,713,450
France	21,062,030	31,907,232	1,937,710	2,227,125
Germany	2	.....	2,947,893	2,063,514
Belgium	.....	.....	185,302	170,648
Italy	1,499,811	1,930,390	148,991	350,152
Switzerland	22,095	19,601	753,250	912,276
Austria-Hungary	.....	.....	35,088	18,135
Holland	20,931	56,093	138,553	210,460
Sweden	69,196	133,737	3,137,106	5,634,040
Norway	583	5,020,975	610,126	1,031,157
Russia	5,597,134	16,660,167	302,408	550,505
Spain	174,065	747,089	96,831	76,786
Denmark	225,526	203,927	82,221	56,137
Turkey	1,092	9,796	46,667	4,178
Portugal	6,603	8,649	2,556	4,398
South America:				
Peru	67,130	250,755	10,955	244,208
Chile	84,840	462,313	1,493,337	3,036,572
Argentina	562,083	648,866	15	30,498
Brazil	.....	50,206	.....	19,842
Africa:				
Egypt	490,459	2,685,742	3,055,508	4,153,698
Cape Colony and Natal	498,018	2,131,641	9	3,614
Other Africa	106,614	241,011	12,956	112,891
Australia	9,012,954	13,847,362	14,228,590	21,601,320
New Zealand	.....	1,563,472	.....	5,406
Hawaii	3,035,368	3,560,226	21,541	37,533
Other countries	860,720	1,245,558	2,659,292	3,405,791
Temporary warehouse	.....	.....	2,394,827	4,227,901
Total	352,736,881	562,042,857	265,160,069	377,079,313

Trade in Certain Articles of Export.

The increases in exports appear principally under the heads of raw silk, from $75,700,000 to $172,800,000, mainly to the United States; metals and metal manufactures from $36,200,000 to $68,500,000, destinations not yet published; copper from $22,000,000 to $32,960,000, mainly to Great Britain; cotton yarn from $32,970,000 to $38,680,000, mainly to China; cotton fabrics from $26,390,000 to $36,080,000, mainly to China and British India; matches from $7,300,000 to $10,500,000, mainly to China and British India; porcelain from $3,460,000 to $6,000,000, mainly to the United States, Australia, and China; camphor from $1,730,000 to $3,130,000, mainly to the United States and British India; toys from $2,250,000 to $3,800,000, mainly to the United States and Great Britain; buttons from $1,990,000 to $3,700,000, mainly to the United States and Great Britain; silk handkerchiefs from $1,360,000 to $2,150,000, mainly to the United States and Great Britain.

Destination of Exports.

The following table gives the destination of some of the principal exports during 1916:

Articles and countries of destination.	Value.	Articles and countries of destination.	Value.
Buttons:		Buttons—Continued.	
China	$193,644	British America	$149,774
Kwangtung Province	31,239	Argentina	60,342
British India	581,366	Australia	348,859
Great Britain	899,803	Other countries	500,321
France	141,338		
Spain	22,130	Total	3,747,238
United States	818,422		

Articles and countries of destination.	Value.
Camphor:	
British India	$777,424
Great Britain	295,900
France	193,055
United States	1,557,812
Australia	44,192
Other countries	266,083
Total	3,134,466
Coal:	
China	3,264,737
Kwangtung Province	9,915
Hongkong	2,469,405
British India	78,408
Straits Settlements	1,592,837
Dutch India	447,685
French Indo-China	161,852
Asiatic Russia	177,173
Philippines	1,341,260
United States	55,193
Hawaii	385,597
Other countries	188,314
Total	10,172,376
Copper, ingot and slab:	
China	812,583
Kwangtung Province	49,451
Hongkong	30,736
British India	48,669
Great Britain	8,389,043
France	2,502,950
United States	1,522,563
Other countries	19,604,377
Total	32,960,375
Cotton table cloths:	
Great Britain	296,357
United States	952,967
British America	37,687
Australia	100,601
Other countries	57,069
Total	1,444,681
Cotton tissues:	
China	17,339,805
Kwangtung Province	2,006,326
Hongkong	724,616
British India	5,264,219
Straits Settlements	377,576
Dutch India	1,119,383
Asiatic Russia	261,698
Philippines	138,242
Siam	89,521
Great Britain	379,853
United States	711,989
Australia	1,021,463
Hawaii	110,479
Other countries	390,076
Total	29,935,246
Cotton towels:	
China	321,339
Kwangtung Province	58,573
Hongkong	253,236
British India	332,362
Straits Settlements	84,262
Dutch India	117,321
Philippines	45,064
Australia	266,204
Other countries	149,969
Total	1,628,330
Cotton undershirts and drawers:	
China	1,248,914
Kwangtung Province	208,185
Hongkong	332,823
British India	3,089,043
Straits Settlements	207,411
Dutch India	580,620
Philippines	549,443

Articles and countries of destination.	Value.
Cotton undershirts and drawers—Con.	
Great Britain	$4,450,285
Australia	1,267,525
Egypt	136,380
Cape Colony and Natal	729,242
Other countries	1,574,073
Total	14,373,944
Cotton yarns:	
China	31,825,481
Kwangtung Province	1,036,602
Hongkong	3,809,584
British India	1,614,798
Philippines	225,763
Other countries	167,311
Total	38,679,539
Crab meat in tins:	
Great Britain	525,542
France	104,410
United States	922,511
British America	2,643
Australia	42,798
Hawaii	34,444
Other countries	15,357
Total	1,647,705
Cuttle-fish, dried:	
China	412,552
Kwangtung Province	6,481
Hongkong	930,988
Straits Settlements	122,301
Other countries	56,857
Total	1,529,179
Fish and whale oil:	
Great Britain	603,158
France	148,543
Australia	185,865
Other countries	749,647
Total	1,687,213
Hats, caps, and bonnets:	
China	135,722
Kwangtung Province	36,739
Hongkong	56,907
Straits Settlements	35,972
Dutch India	134,694
Great Britain	70,626
France	6,292
United States	2,186,407
Australia	409,479
Other countries	248,976
Total	3,321,814
Isinglass, vegetable:	
China	219,821
Kwangtung Province	27,480
Hongkong	109,913
British India	18,593
Straits Settlements	50,035
Dutch India	174,917
Great Britain	156,811
France	144,214
United States	189,022
Other countries	128,955
Total	1,219,761
Lacquered ware:	
China	18,053
Kwangtung Province	17,268
Hongkong	7,289
British India	43,291
Straits Settlements	16,075
Dutch India	22,206
Great Britain	137,962
France	36,200
Italy	1,000
Holland	1,216

Articles and countries of destination.	Value.
Lacquered ware—Continued.	
United States	$162,543
Argentina	2,876
Australia	14,102
Other countries	69,549
Total	549,642
Matches:	
China	2,599,020
Kwangtung Province	753,047
Hongkong	1,796,173
British India	2,887,411
Straits Settlements	516,874
Dutch India	375,452
Philippines	75,687
Other countries	1,516,278
Total	10,519,942
Mats and mattings:	
China	95,418
Kwangtung Province	20,334
Straits Settlements	21,912
Great Britain	208,884
United States	846,617
British America	71,482
Australia	45,315
Hawaii	23,002
Other countries	94,439
Total	1,427,403
Menthol crystals:	
British India	89,052
Great Britain	458,040
France	210,613
United States	404,892
Other countries	39,101
Total	1,201,698
Plaits for hats:	
Philippines	40,752
Great Britain	2,904,886
France	955,177
Italy	35,463
United States	3,923,062
Australia	110,657
Other countries	164,732
Total	8,134,729
Porcelain:	
China	627,625
Kwangtung Province	176,498
Hongkong	248,403
British India	579,759
Straits Settlements	351,585
Dutch India	259,892
French Indo-China	15,060
Great Britain	230,588
France	33,213
Holland	3,025
United States	2,077,117
British America	231,476
Australia	768,477
Hawaii	41,751
Cape Colony and Natal	64,369
Other countries	293,280
Total	6,002,118
Rice:	
China	32,261
Kwangtung Province	58,945
Asiatic Russia	417,400
Great Britain	1,740,350
United States	1,057,958
British America	560,032
Australia	81,787
Hawaii	1,309,076
Other countries	324,073
Total	5,581,882

Articles and countries of destination.	Value.
Sake:	
China	$313,010
Kwangtung Province	365,884
United States	191,255
British America	47,318
Hawaii	75,214
Other countries	19,457
Total	1,012,138
Seaweed:	
China	1,150,731
Kwangtung Province	45,128
Hongkong	11,783
Other countries	18,991
Total	1,226,633
Silk handkerchiefs:	
British India	94,524
Philippines	29,080
Great Britain	420,798
France	25,174
Italy	12,108
United States	824,186
British America	85,122
Mexico	10,893
Argentina	274,834
Australia	42,705
Egypt	101,417
Cape Colony and Natal	55,214
Other countries	180,044
Total	2,156,099
Silk, raw:	
Great Britain	1,006,815
France	15,795,283
Russia	4,432,497
United States	111,710,348
Other countries	172,810
Total	133,117,753
Silk tissues, Habutae:	
Hongkong	11,835
British India	2,060,574
Straits Settlements	139,759
Dutch India	97,107
Philippines	15,413
Siam	32,644
Great Britain	5,400,445
France	2,778,526
Italy	238,608
Spain	2,768
United States	6,380,268
British America	938,187
Mexico	1,981
Australia	1,691,544
Egypt	102,112
Other countries	684,423
Total	20,576,194
Silk, waste:	
British India	5
Great Britain	179,762
France	2,692,713
Italy	1,034,534
United States	1,282,327
Other countries	35,169
Total	5,224,510
Sugar, refined:	
China	6,137,656
Kwangtung Province	824,174
Other countries	1,224,406
Total	8,186,236
Sulphur:	
China	23,831
Kwangtung Province	2,393
Hongkong	38,045
British India	140,837

Articles and countries of destination.	Value.
Sulphur—Continued.	
United States	$598,204
British America	129,395
Australia	625,575
Hawaii	43,457
Other countries	1,496,709
Total	3,098,446
Tea:	
China	118,197
Kwangtung Province	29,510
Straits Settlements	21,821
United States	6,634,358
British America	1,058,906
Hawaii	43,715
Other countries	110,359
Total	8,016,866
Toys:	
China	198,401
Kwangtung Province	22,439
Hongkong	71,591
British India	464,648
Straits Settlements	76,166
Dutch India	147,648
Philippines	46,809
Great Britain	657,484
France	14,477
United States	1,211,363
Toys—Continued.	
British America	$170,619
Australia	476,052
Other countries	250,853
Total	3,808,550
Umbrellas and parasols, European style:	
China	699,497
Kwangtung Province	12,109
Hongkong	36,978
British India	102,412
Straits Settlements	44,224
Dutch India	139,961
Other countries	54,706
Total	1,089,887
Wood:	
China	1,547,527
Kwangtung Province	384,011
Hongkong	13,831
Great Britain	516,320
France	11,063
Holland	777
United States	8,810
Australia	613,868
Other countries	2,494,274
Total	5,590,481

Increases in Imports.

The increases in imports appear principally, in round numbers, under the heads of raw cotton, from $108,200,000 to $137,000,000, mainly from British India, the United States, and China; iron and steel ingots, slabs, bars, rods, plates, sheets, and tubes, mainly from the United States, Great Britain, and China; machinery and engines, from $4,400,000 to $8,000,000, mainly from the United States and Great Britain; nails, from $268,000 to $2,000,000, mainly from the United States; lead, from $1,400,000 to $3,700,000, mainly from Australia; wool, from $15,200,000 to $16,700,000, a large percentage from Australia; woolen fabrics, from $1,600,000 to $2,100,000, mainly from Great Britain; pulp for paper making, from $3,000,000 to $4,500,000, a large percentage from Sweden; paper, from $1,500,000 to $2,900,000, mainly from Great Britain and the United States.

Decreases in imports were specially noticeable in food products, such as wheat, beans and peas, flour, and sugar.

Countries of Origin of Imports.

The principal articles imported during 1916 and the countries of origin follow:

Articles and countries of origin.	Value.
Aniline dyes:	
Great Britain	$1,477
Germany	1,365,656
Switzerland	109,552
Other countries	209,536
Total	1,686,221
Beans and peas:	
China	2,307,737
Kwangtung Province	1,012,537
British India	43,347
Other countries	180,312
Total	3,543,933
Cotton italians and satins:	
Great Britain	$795,957
Other countries	844
Total	796,801
Cotton, raw:	
China	9,809,404
Kwangtung Province	10,950
British India	82,346,492
Straits Settlements	284,134
Dutch India	523,506
French Indo-China	868,076
Siam	98,240
United States	39,565,985

Articles and countries of origin.	Value.
Cotton, raw—Continued.	
Egypt	$4,116,250
Other countries	7,167
Total	137,630,204
Cotton shirtings and prints:	
Great Britain	362,466
United States	81,103
Other countries	3,468
Total	447,037
Flax, hemp, China grass, ramie, etc.:	
China	1,705,458
Kwangtung Province	3,383
British India	426,151
Philippines	2,339,681
Other countries	13,425
Total	4,548,098
Iron (bar, rod, plate, sheet, band, etc.):	
Great Britain	9,823,206
Germany	201,383
Belgium	10,968
Sweden	451,399
United States	17,566,593
Other countries	639,116
Total	28,686,575
Iron (lump, ingot, bloom, billet, and slab):	
China	2,508,020
Kwangtung Province	1,207,209
British India	1,801,188
Great Britain	1,817,803
Germany	13,142
Sweden	217,393
Other countries	770,469
Total	8,235,224
Iron nails:	
Great Britain	89,330
Germany	3,038
Belgium	2,918
United States	1,941,879
Other countries	57,792
Total	2,094,957
Iron pipes and tubes:	
Great Britain	328,766
Germany	419
United States	1,358,580
Other countries	21,355
Total	1,712,120
Kerosene oil:	
Dutch India	293,043
United States	2,484,069
Other countries	6
Total	2,777,118
Lead, ingot and slab:	
Australia	1,745,264
Other countries	1,974,825
Total	3,720,089
Leather:	
British India	497,689
Straits Settlements	11,266
Great Britain	305,602
Germany	693
United States	549,171
Other countries	25,680
Total	1,390,101

Articles and countries of origin.	Value.
Locomotive engines and rolling stock:	
Great Britain	$60,157
Germany	1,857
United States	137,174
Other countries	9,942
Total	209,130
Machinery and engines:	
Great Britain	3,497,034
France	305,239
Germany	50,324
Switzerland	57,058
Sweden	154,355
United States	3,879,152
Other countries	107,748
Total	8,050,910
Oil cake:	
China	5,375,199
Kwangtung Province	9,742,157
British India	332,481
Asiatic Russia	331,749
Other countries	2,935,521
Total	18,717,107
Paper:	
Great Britain	1,344,046
France	12,046
Germany	11,998
Belgium	10,493
Austria-Hungary	1,214
Sweden	479,095
Norway	246,648
United States	733,799
Other countries	65,654
Total	2,901,993
Phosphorite:	
All countries	1,361,212
Pulp for paper making:	
Great Britain	19,997
Germany	36,402
Sweden	2,840,166
Norway	670,703
United States	600,779
Other countries	327,286
Total	4,495,333
Rails:	
Great Britain	9,388
Germany	2,890
United States	202,948
Other countries	4,554
Total	219,780
Rice:	
China	76,880
Kwangtung Province	5
British India	19,216
French Indo-China	171,278
Siam	1,261,517
Other countries	10,251
Total	1,539,177
Rubber and guttapercha, crude:	
British India	741,351
Straits Settlements	2,476,691
Dutch India	82,361
Great Britain	239,467
United States	67,213
Other countries	5,048
Total	3,612,134
Sugar:	
China	9,705
Kwangtung Province	476

Articles and countries of origin.	Value.
Sugar—Continued.	
Hongkong	$240,628
Dutch India	4,252,399
Philippines	1,969,677
United States	4,944
Other countries	731
Total	6,469,560
Sulphate of ammonia, crude:	
Great Britain	254,873
Australia	116,774
Other countries	226,191
Total	597,838
Wheat:	
China	557,817
Kwangtung Province	92,665
United States	9,496
Other countries	16,032
Total	676,010
Wheat flour:	
United States	38,485
British America	1,961
Other countries	6,781
Total	47,227
Wool:	
China	$993,127
Kwangtung Province	9,172
Great Britain	279,372
Australia	15,392,254
Other countries	29,164
Total	16,703,089
Woolen yarns:	
Great Britain	707,307
France	5
Germany	15,679
Other countries	29
Total	723,020
Woolen cloths and serges:	
Great Britain	2,100,551
France	3,693
Germany	10,289
Belgium	2,364
Holland	7,819
Other countries	19,043
Total	2,143,759

Trade with the United States.

The value of exports from Japan to the United States during 1916, according to customhouse returns, was $169,604,040, an increase as compared with 1915 of $67,941,402. As shown by declarations to consular invoices, however, such exports were valued at $189,052,828, including charges, indicating an increase over 1915 of $80,883,407. The leading article was, as heretofore, raw and waste silk, showing an increase in value compared with 1915 from $63,984,081 to $116,384,445, and an increase in quantity from 21,117,039 to 28,059,214 pounds. Tea exports, however, decreased in value from $6,000,756 in 1915 to $5,453,176 in 1916, but an increase in quantity of 427,185 pounds. Silk piece goods and tissues increased from $5,249,237 to $8,402,648. Other exports showing noticeable increases in value were hats and bonnets, $984,590 to $2,202,713; braids, $3,380,765 to $4,093,705; brushes and feather dusters, $637,055 to $1,359,636; camphor gum, $454,016 to $1,100,694; beans and peas, $693,484 to $2,720,425; tinned provisions, $589,587 to $1,152,840; and among articles for which a new market in the United States has been found, or which were of such small importance as to have been omitted from the report for the year 1915, may be mentioned imitation pearl beads, blocking foils, brass ingots, bronze powder, glycerin, rags, artificial fertilizers, artificial flowers, gold leaf, iridium, eggs, scheelite ore, tennis rackets, and woolen textiles.

The export of copper to the United States shows a marked falling off, the value being $3,147,339 in 1915 and $1,895,288 in 1916.

Concerning imports from the United States, the figures available at present cover but a few articles. The imports of raw cotton from the United States in 1915 were 215,288,133 pounds, valued at $27,715,555, and increased in 1916 to 294,164,133 pounds, valued at $39,565,985. Iron and steel bars, rods, plates, sheets, and bands increased from $4,025,092 to $17,566,593; pipes and tubes, from $533,337 to

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$1,358,580; nails, from $204,241 to $1,941,879; machinery and engines, from $1,420,208 to $3,879,152; pulp for paper making, from $106,343 to $600,779; leather, from $380,538 to $549,171.

Decreases in imports from the United States appeared under the following heads: Kerosene oil, from $3,334,312 to $2,484,069; wheat, from $111,438 to $9,496; flour, from $86,757 to $38,485; locomotives, from $207,013 to $137,174; and rails, from $271,907 to $202,948.

Movements of Specie and Bullion.

The exports of specie and bullion were valued at $13,997,591, a decrease of $8,196,299, as compared with 1915. The imports were valued at $50,363,406, an increase of $38,263,740. According to reports from the Finance Department, the specie reserve of Japan, in round numbers, increased from 516,000,000 yen ($257,226,000) at the end of 1915 to 714,000,000 yen ($355,929,000) at the end of 1916. More than two-thirds of this reserve was stated to be on deposit abroad.

The movement of specie and bullion by countries during the past two years was as follows:

Countries.	Exports to.		Imports from.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
China	$1,680,950	$10,205,277	$3,540,724	$1,163,356
Hongkong	610,706	1,899,067	1,050	.....
British India	213,682	1,877,798	7,292,961	3,017,450
Asiatic Russia	.....	.....	4,136	19,535,991
Great Britain	.....	.....	972,395	973,371
United States	19,683,450	8,808	.....	25,116,270
Australia	.....	.....	218,789	486,686
Hawaii	4,096	.....	.....	20,000
Other countries	996	6,641	69,611	26,692
Total	22,193,880	13,997,591	12,099,666	50,363,406

Customs Receipts—Shipping.

The customs receipts during 1916 amounted to $17,643,730, against $15,605,165 for 1915. Of the total in 1916, $16,865,439 represented import duties, $303,510 tonnage dues, and $474,781 other receipts.

The entered tonnage of vessels engaged in the foreign trade of Japan during 1916 is given as 20,416,537, showing an increase over the previous year of 781,755 tons.

After a suspension of nearly a year the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. resumed operations in the autumn of 1916 between San Francisco and the Orient.

The Japanese shipbuilding yards were engaged to their capacities. The scarcity of iron mines in Japan is a matter of serious import in connection with the country's development of shipbuilding and other industries, but the indications are that a remedy will be found in China, where Japanese investments in mines and mills are reported to be rapidly increasing and with most encouraging results.

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WASHINGTON : GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1917